

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A process for preparing polymeric beads of complexing resin incorporating magnetic particles, which process comprises: producing a dispersion having a continuous aqueous phase and a dispersed organic phase, said organic phase comprising one or more polymerisable monomers, magnetic particles and a dispersing agent for dispersing said magnetic particles in the organic phase; polymerising said one or more polymerisable monomers to form polymeric beads incorporating said magnetic particles, wherein said polymeric beads include amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation, or wherein said polymeric beads are reacted with one or more compounds to provide amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

2-18. Cancelled.

19. (Currently amended) Polymeric beads of complexing resin comprising a polymer matrix having magnetic particles and a dispersing agent dispersed substantially uniformly therein, wherein the polymer matrix incorporates amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

20. (Currently amended) The polymeric beads of claim 19, wherein the ~~polymeric matrix incorporates a~~ dispersing agent is covalently bound within the polymeric matrix.

21. (Currently Amended) A complexing resin prepared by ~~the~~ a process of claim 1 which comprises producing a dispersion having a continuous aqueous phase and a dispersed organic phase, said organic phase comprising one or more polymerisable monomers, magnetic particles and a dispersing agent for dispersing said magnetic

particles in the organic phase; polymerising said one or more polymerisable monomers to form polymeric beads incorporating said magnetic particles, wherein said polymeric beads include amine groups that are capable of complexing a transition metal cation and that are provided by polymerised residues of said one or more polymerisable monomers, or wherein said polymeric beads are reacted with one or more compounds to provide amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

22. (New) The complexing resin according to claim 1 wherein the organic phase comprises two or more monomers.

23. (New) The complexing resin according to claim 21 wherein said one or more polymerisable monomers are selected from:

- (a) crosslinking monomers which are able to provide crosslink points; and
- (b) functional monomers which are able to provide functional groups.

24. (New) The complexing resin according to claim 23 wherein said functional monomer provides amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

25. (New) The process according to claim 24 wherein said functional monomer provides amine groups selected from dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, aminopropyl acrylamide and methacrylamide, N,N-dimethylaminopropyl acrylamide and methacrylamide, vinyl pyridine, organic-soluble diallylamine and vinylimidazole salts.

26. (New) The process according to claim 23 wherein said functional monomer includes a functional group capable of reaction with one or more compounds to provide said amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

27. (New) The process according to claim 26 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups includes an amide group.

28. (New) The process according to claim 27 wherein said functional monomer including an amide group is selected from N-vinyl formamide and N-methyl-N-vinyl acetamide.
29. (New) The process according to claim 26 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups includes an epoxy group.
30. (New) The process according to claim 29 wherein said functional monomer including an epoxy group is glycidyl methacrylate.
31. (New) The process according to claim 26 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups is a vinyl ester.
32. (New) The process according to claim 31 wherein said vinyl ester is selected from acrylate and methacrylate esters.
33. (New) The process according to claim 32 wherein the acrylate ester is methyl acrylate.
34. (New) The process according to claim 21 wherein said one or more polymerisable monomers further includes one or more back bone monomers.
35. (New) The process according to claim 21 wherein said dispersed organic phase further comprises a porogen.
36. (New) The process according to claim 21 wherein the magnetic particles are selected from γ -iron oxide, magnetite and chromium dioxide.
37. (New) The process according to claim 21 wherein the dispersion is stabilised using a stabilising agent.